

1981

MINUTES AND REPORT

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MEETING OF COUNCIL

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THE COOPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA

held at 225 Swanston Street, Melbourne on Monday, 21st September 1981, commencing
7 p.m.

1. PRESENT:

Mr. J. N. Black	Chairman
Mr. E. J. Long	
Mr. B. H. Macintosh	
Mr. M. Rundle	
Mr. G. J. Simm	
Mr. O. J. Slattery	
Mr. W. W. Rawlinson	Executive Officer

In attendance: Mr. B. Greer

Apologies for non-attendance were received from

Messrs. A. Dash, A. Plant, A. Gill

2. MINUTES:

Minutes of the meeting held 18th August 1981, having been circulated, were received and confirmed as a correct record of that meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

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|-------|---|----------------|
| 3.i | Conditional group membership 17 Herd Improvement Cooperatives | Minute 5 |
| | Formal advice of conditional acceptance issued.
Dues payment still outstanding. | |
| 3.ii | Advisory Council Grant
Request for grant increase to \$5,000 made.
Advisory Council will consider for 1982/83. <i>PRESENT</i>
financial year already finalised. | Minute 6 (iii) |
| 3.iii | Grant from Dept. Employment & Training -
Balance of indicated grant received in respect
of Community Employment Cooperatives Development
Programme. Dept. advised of short-fall between
grant and submitted expense budget. | Minute 6 (iii) |

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3.iv Subscriptions

Minute 6(iv)

Accounts for annual year's subscriptions at revised rates issued.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

4(i) Open Channel - advising prospectus being prepared for Cooperative project for probable use by Federation in promoting appeal for cost covering funds.

4(ii) North Eastern Cooperative - copy of letter to Registrar re increase of maximum dividend payable on share capital.

4(iii) Director Education, Farmer Cooperative Service, U.S. Department Agriculture, Washington re visit in October. Major Cooperatives advised with object of raising members to meet Dr. Mohn.

4(iv) To Chairman, Cooperative Dairy Factories Association of Victoria - inviting joint Federation of Association discussions.

5. FINANCIAL

Statement of Income and Expenditure for period 1.7.81 to 31.8.81 and estimated Balance Sheet as at 31.8.81, with segregated account for Community Employment Cooperative Development Programme was presented to the meeting, discussed and received.

6. RETIREMENT OF COUNCILLORS - RULE 27(c)

As 3 Industry and 6 General Councillors were all appointed at the 1981 Annual General Meeting, lots were drawn to determine the retiring dates of each. The result of this draw was -

Scheduled to retire
at A.G.M. in

<u>Industry Councillors</u>	
Black	1982
Dash	1983
Macintosh	1984

<u>General Councillors</u>	
Foster	1982
Gill	1983
Plant	1984
Rundle	1984
Simon SM	1983
Slattery	1982

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8. LEGISLA

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9. EDUCATION

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7. 1981 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

(i) Recommendations from 1981 Conference for 1982 Conference Planners

- (a) Schedule for second week in August
- (b) Use Yarra Room, Olympic Park Venue
- (c) Improve seating arrangements
- (d) Avoid lunch-time speaker
- (e) Organise buffet lunch
- (f) Organise discussion group periods
- (g) Provide more time for Employment Cooperatives
- (ii) Cost of 1981 Conference - \$880-00. Income \$825-00.

8. LEGISLATION

The following matters were referred for study by and report from the Legislative Committee comprising -

- (i) Messrs. Long, Rundle, Greer
Forfeiture of shares of untraceable members
- (ii) Provision for Fishermen's Cooperatives to be
Producer Cooperatives rather than Trading
- (iii) Family Trusts, Pty. Companies as members of
Producer Cooperatives
- (iv) Provisions for Employment Cooperatives to operate
as Work Cooperatives with worker members being
eligible to become directors

Note was taken of a proposed Rule amendment at one member Cooperatives A.G.M. removing eligibility for Directorship from anyone conducting business in opposition to the Cooperative.

9. EDUCATION

A committee comprising Messrs. Black, Greer, Rundle met to consider education needs of the Federation and Government programmes of assistance. The committee recommended:

- (i) Training programmes for Community Employment Cooperatives
be commenced forthwith funded from Employment Cooperatives
Development Programme.

(ii) Programmes for Director Training be organised from February 1982 on an ad hoc cost covering basis under guidance of Federation Training Committee.

(iii) Action be initiated for participation of the Federation in the Federal Government's Manpower Development Executive scheme.

Council agreed recommendations (ii) and (iii) should be programmed for action at the February 1982 meeting of Council.

10.i

10. REPORTS

10.i.

Advisory Council

(i) The Minister was given leave to bring into Parliament the Co-operation Bill. Leave was agreed to and the Bill was brought in and read a first time on 16th September 1981.

(ii) The Advisory Council met on 27th August and 17th September. Matters considered included the winding up of a Community Advancement Cooperative for which a Government Guarantee had been provided.

10.iv

Council agreed a study should be undertaken of Cooperatives which have failed in the past five years with the object of recording reasons, establishing any pattern that may be indicated and developing programmes to reduce or avoid the causes.

(iii) The Registrar, as Chairman, advised an amendment to the new Act in response to the Federation's objections to the part relating to Prospectuses. The proposed amendment submitted to the Parliamentary draughtsmen is along the lines

"The provisions of Part III, Division 4 (Prospectus) will apply only to a Society in respect of certain loans or capital being raised from the public and to a Society which has been named in an order issued by the Registrar".

10.ii.

Community Employment Cooperatives

Mr. Greer reported his priority project is detailed study of existing and funded cooperatives. Of two who were due for renewal of funding, one has terminated its operations.

Five potential Cooperative groups have indicated a need for advisory services.

He spent three days in Sydney on a detailed study of Work Cooperatives, organisation and administration in that State.

Four Employment Cooperatives have joined in a combined marketing and promotion exercise in the Government Pavilion at the Royal Agricultural Show.

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A submission has been made to the Employment Cooperative Development Funding Committee for funds for Education and Training.

The Chairman proposed Council should make a familiarisation visit to 1 or 2 metropolitan Employment Cooperatives. Council agreed and Mr. Greer will arrange.

10.iii. Executive Officer

- (i) Mr. Rawlinson tabled extracts from the State Budget papers in which exemption from Stamp Duty on cheques has been removed from Credit Societies and Building Societies.

The Budget also provided \$600,000 for the Employment Cooperative Development Programme.

- (ii) He tabled the final printed programme for the International Study Course to which he has been seconded as Director by the C.F.A. and which will run from 5th October to 11th December 1981.

10.iv. Cooperative Federation of Australia

The Chairman advised that a meeting of the national Council will be held in Melbourne on Friday, 25th September 1981. Two main items on the Agenda are concerned with Restructuring the Cooperative Federation of Australia ^{and the proposed} Cooperative Bank.

Victorian Council will be represented by Messrs. Black and Slattery.

Mr. Slattery reported on meetings and correspondence of the Steering Committee concerned with both items. A paper on restructuring of the Federation will be considered.

Council indicated that

- (a) until clear information on the manner of the proposed restructure,
(b) its costs and benefits quantified,
(c) adequate demonstration that if the present system and structure is wasteful how it will be corrected

it was unable to support or oppose the proposal.

On the subject of application for a licence to establish a Cooperative Bank, Council supported Mr. Slattery in his expression of concern at a lack of consultation between the Cooperative Federation of N.S.W. and the national Council.

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Council directed its representatives to the National Council to record that the proposition is not opposed at this stage but more clarification on cost/benefits, source of funds for feasibility studies, implications on current Federation members' relations with the Reserve Bank, Management resources, services to be provided, is required.

Until these and other relevant matters are clarified to the satisfaction of the National Council then restraint should be exercised in dealings with outside bodies and politicians.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was schedule for Monday, 26th October 1981, commencing at 7 p.m.

12. CLOSURE

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.10 p.m.

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2. MINUTES

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3. MATTERS

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